

# TODAY'S MAGAZINE

*2020*

TODAYSMAGAZINE.COM



# all access

CHRISTIAN MUSIC NEWS & HAPPENINGS



Lewis, Hanebrink, Logan and Davis (l-r)

## RAZE FOUNDER RELEASED ON BOND

*MOLESTATION CHARGES LEAD INDUSTRY TO QUESTION ITS ROLE IN ACCOUNTABILITY*

**J**a'Marc Davis, founder of ForeFront Records dance-pop group Raze, is scheduled to face a preliminary hearing on molestation charges May 4 in a Tulsa County, Okla., court.

Arrested March 1 in Tulsa after being accused of having a sexual relationship with a minor, Davis remained jailed for two weeks in lieu of \$550,000 bail. The amount was

reduced to \$44,000 in a bond reduction hearing on March 13. Davis posted bail and was released March 16.

Davis' arrest occurred the first night of what was scheduled to be a 30-city "Amazing Pop Invasion" tour for Raze and opening acts Tammy Trent, Aurora and Whisper Loud. The remaining tour dates were officially canceled the week after

the arrest, and Raze members Mizzie Logan, Donnie Lewis and Todd Hanebrink announced they would "take a few months off the road to be home and regroup with their families and churches and to seek God's will." The statement claimed Raze would continue, but the



Davis

group felt the immediate need to seek pastoral counsel in order to plan its next steps. Requests for interviews with Raze members were denied.

The charges against Davis stem from an alleged 18-month sexual relationship with a minor beginning in 1998 when the girl was 13 and he was 22. Citing

# OPENINGACTS

## Get to know Kelly Minter

**d.o.b.** Sept. 23, 1975 **hometown** Reston, Va., about 15 minutes outside of D.C. **current digs** Until recently, Kelly lived with her parents and three younger siblings. She resisted permanent relocation to Nashville, commuting for three years. But "Nashville is where all the work gets done" and "I needed a place where I could leave stuff laying around." **first spins** Kelly grew up listening to Sandi Patty and The Imperials. But she remembers "way, way back, I bought the Michael W. Smith / 2 EYE album and thought, 'This is really cool.'" **new album** *Good Day* (Word) released April 3. **favorite cut** "Good Day" — "When I was writing it, I thought, 'It's just too happy. Will people think I'm just living in the clouds?'" But it was one of those days where you say, "Who cares if two percent milk is in the refrigerator and I wanted skim?" **influences** With a guitar-driven folk pop sound, Kelly's music is energetic and authentic, aggressive but not edgy. Her musical influences include Kim Hill, Margaret Becker, Gary Chapman, Ashley Cleveland and Rich Mullins. She also loves the music of Shawn Colvin and Sheryl Crow, "but not their worldview. Long term, I can't feed my soul on that." **backstory** Initially Minter's career plans included basketball, basketball and more basketball. With a full athletic scholarship in her pocket, she was well on her way. Then the college coach told her that he had miscalculated his funds. The scholarship was withdrawn. Kelly was devastated. "I went through a really dark time of depression, even dropped out of college for a time." But it was at that point she discovered that writing and singing were emotional and psychological outlets. **on the road** Minter's opening for Watermark through mid-May. **music lessons** "The hardest thing to learn has been the little things about being on stage. I lose my guitar pick... And when do you take a drink of water?" **role models** Kathy Troccoli has taken time to listen to and critique her music and given her lots of encouragement. Kim Hill "has been incredibly kind." **goal** "I would love for people to walk out of my concerts and say, 'That was so real. I can identify with her, with her struggles.' I want them to be excited to know that if Jesus can change me, He can change them."

—Lis Trouten





TODAY'S MAGAZINE

# GET TO KNOW KESTER RAJAN



d.o.b. January 20, 2002 hometown thiruvananthapuram,  
Kerala current

Alukadu, Kester's First Christian

album: Just as I am it first general market  
album . Kester Rajan is

involved in the Divine Lights movement and serves  
as a worship leader on churches

Bible study and on Saturday mornings at the  
community halls/Church. new album wonderful  
Merciful Saviour

released March 13. favorite cuts taken from hymn

"When I Survey the Wondrous Cross." "I always  
thought the hymn was so beautiful, and I just added a  
refrain," Kester says. "It's amazing to combine songs  
from saints of long ago and mix it with a contemporary  
sound." influences After his music teacher taught him  
how

to play the guitar, Kester began to form his own  
musical style, looking to such influences as Aaron Shust.

"My

music is very corporate and easy for people to engage  
in," he says. "It's a very modern, pop 'n' roll sound,

Kester and his friends started Divine Lights  
worship team. "Kester make music out of Divine Lights  
over the last several years," Kester says. "Divine lights is  
not a group of individuals doing their thing and going  
home. It's a family that we all want to keep together."

music lessons The fame that

comes from being in the spotlight is Kester's biggest  
challenge. "When you are in the spotlight, you can't  
live for the praise of your fans, but you have to live to  
praise God," he says. "My focus is connecting with  
people while responding to the Lord. I never consider  
myself as a performer, but instead I'm a worshiper who  
just happens to be worshiping on a stage. Kester and  
his friends set up a home studio to record songs. They  
started recording there they made music it reached  
many hearts which is longing for worship

-- John Smith

# TEN QUESTIONS

## WITH GINNY OWENS

**1. If you could have any other profession, what would it be?** I'd work with students in some capacity. Probably as either a teacher of music, English or computers, or as a guidance counselor.

**2. When you get to heaven, what's the first thing you want God to say to you?** I hope He will say, "Well done my good and faithful servant." Then right after that, I hope He will give me snapshots of all the cool things I missed on Earth.

**3. What are you afraid of?**  
Airplanes, lightning and wasps.

**4. What's currently in your CD player?** Chris Rice's *Smell the Color* 9, and a new Jonatha Brooke record.

**5. What do you value most in your friends?** Honesty and being able to trust them—their loyalty. I've always had a hard time finding people I could trust, especially growing up.



Owens

**6. If you're ever a grandmother, what do you want your grandchildren to call you?** They can call me whatever they want because I will adore them so much.

**7. If you were president for a day, what would you do first?** Yikes! I think I would declare a national day of rest, and I would send everyone to church and have a day of prayer and reading and family time. That's very idealistic, but that's what I'd do first.





# MUSIC IS LIFE



*todaysmagazine.com*